

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

DAUGHTER OF NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

VIEW FROM DOWN UNDER

A mother and her children strive to keep their heads above water living under a bridge in Manila, leaving the danger and enduring the squalid conditions.

Huge oil profits probed

Pope meets 4 victims of sex abuse

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—POPE Benedict XVI on Monday met with four victims of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests, but critics said the meetings were too abbreviated and disingenuous to be a public relations ploy.

It was the second time in four months that the pontiff has met with victims of clergy abuse, a scandal that has plagued the Catholic Church in recent years and that Benedict has been struggling to fix.

The pontiff held prayers and spoke individually with each of the four victims—two men and two women aged 30 and upward—in the last hours of his papacy.



Hungry Filipinos based on SWS June 2008 survey

Region	% of households	Families affected	Persons
Philippines	12.3	2.9M	14.3M
Manila/Region	12.3	100,000	2.6M
Rest of Luzon	12.3	870,000	4.6M
Visayas	12.7	715,000	3.6M
Mindanao	12.7	770,000	3.5M

SOURCE: SWS, SWS/ABC, SWS/ABC/ABC

Burma ratifies Asean charter, human rights body

SINGAPORE—THE MILITARY junta in Burma yesterday said it would abide by a regional charter calling for a human rights body and other reforms demanded by its neighbors for standing as a full-fledged member.

The question remains whether the military junta, which has ruled Burma since 1962, will actually do so.

Speaker seeks ceasefire in row over population

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF THE SPEAKER OF THE House of Representatives is a "devout Catholic," where does his religious fidelity leave room for compromise: battling the Church hierarchy in pushing for a population control policy?

Amid the raging debate over the issue, Speaker Prospero N-

gria yesterday said he had been advised by his priest, Archbishop Francisco Capalla of Zamboanga, to support the Church's position on reproductive health.

"I am a devout Catholic," N-gria said in a press conference, revealing his reply to the archbishop, a former president of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference.



PRESIDENT Mañagala Arroyo listens to a briefing on areas affected by recent typhoons during the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council meeting held in Barangay Kahongi in Palomok, South Cotabato, on Monday.

14.5M experienced hunger, says SWS

MORE FEELING HUNGER across the country experienced last year, according to a survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) last week. The survey found that 14.5 million people, or 12.3 percent of the population, experienced hunger last year, up from 10.7 percent in 2007. The survey also found that 12.3 percent of the population experienced hunger last year, up from 10.7 percent in 2007.

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'Save power, tune out GMA's Soma'

By Joselyn R. Uy

IT MAY SOUND LIKE AN innovative way of cutting electricity costs but it may not be the kind of energy-saving method Malacanan would like to supply in Manila.

A youth group yesterday said one way of saving electricity on Monday, July 28, would be to tune out President Mañagala-Arroyo's



State of the Nation Address (Sona). Switching off television sets and other electronic gadgets

Golez sees collusion by Big 3 on pricing

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MEMBER OF THE House of Representatives yesterday called on the Commission on Audit (COA) to scrutinize the books of the country's "Big Three" oil companies (Petron Corp., Filipino Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines) amid what he said were signs of collusion against public interest.

Senior Deputy Minority Leader Raulo Golez said it was better if the COA conducted a "thorough and independent audit" of the oil firms, not the joint task force of the energy and justice departments.

The special task force yesterday began an investigation of allegations that the oil firms were manipulating retail prices by raising them almost every week.

Going by experience, it is the COA that can produce results.

Court rules against Jonas mother

By Lela B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS yesterday ruled that the mother of Jonas Burgos had failed to show that the military was behind the kidnapping of her son and that her evidence was either possi-

bly fabricated or incoherent. But the court criticized the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), saying their investigation into the April 28, 2007, disappearance of the son of the late press freedom icon

Jose "Ding" Burgos left "much to be desired."

Lela Burgos said she was "extremely disappointed" with the decision.

"I followed all the steps and contrary to their decision



FAJARDO ARROYO

Joker calls Palace spokesperson stupid

By Gil C. Cabasagana Jr.

SEN. JOKER ARROYO YESTERDAY called a presidential spokesperson "stupid" for saying that executive privilege would be invoked if the Senate pushed through with its plan to request its inquiry into the \$500-million North

Luzon Railways (NorthRail) project. Lito Lito, a deputy of Executive Secretary Eduardo Erzeta, said a report last week that Cabinet officials would not shut finance about invoking executive privilege should the Senate pursue its investigation into the NorthRail project, amounted as over-

priced and anomalous. Erzeta is President Mañagala-Arroyo's spokesperson. Lito made the statement invoking the Palace's claim following back-to-back wins scored by the Arroyo administration this year in the Supreme Court, which upheld the constitutionality of the

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE yesterday approved the filing of kidnapping charges against Indonesian, Sub Mayor Alvaro Lopez and his son Helder over the kidnapping of an AMR-GN crew led by broadcast

On July 28, the DOJ updated the findings of the panel of prosecutors

WEATHER FORECAST

Forecast: Heavy rain to moderate rain showers with strong easterly winds and gusty squalls likely to continue through the day. Sea is rough to very rough. High tide at 1:30 pm.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Manila	28-32°C	10-15 kph	Partly cloudy
Quezon	28-32°C	10-15 kph	Partly cloudy
Palawan	28-32°C	10-15 kph	Partly cloudy
Visayas	28-32°C	10-15 kph	Partly cloudy
Mindanao	28-32°C	10-15 kph	Partly cloudy
Subic Bay	28-32°C	10-15 kph	Partly cloudy
Clark	28-32°C	10-15 kph	Partly cloudy
Baguio	20-25°C	10-15 kph	Partly cloudy
San Francisco	20-25°C	10-15 kph	Partly cloudy
General Santos	28-32°C	10-15 kph	Partly cloudy

Second FRONT PAGE

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E23		FOUR DIGIT	
1234	5678	9012	3456
BUSINESS			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	0	1	2
HEGALOTTO 6/45			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	0	1	2
P4,500,000.00			

Lucio Tan firm gets P1-B refund

Supreme Court rules gov't collected too much in tobacco taxes

By Lela B. Salaverda

THE SUPREME COURT HAS AFFIRMED A LOWER court ruling granting the Lucio Tan-owned Fortune Tobacco Corp. a P1-billion tax refund.

In a decision released yesterday, the high court said Fortune Tobacco's 17-99 excise tax was invalid by the Finance Ministry which increased the tax rates on cigarettes, some not supported by the Tax Code.

It also dismissed the Bureau of Internal Revenue's plea to enforce a lower court ruling before the Supreme Court.

The official said that, while some brands, should not be taxed, "beyond the plain excise tax, other taxes, such as a luxury tax, should not be imposed." "We are not going to impose a luxury tax on cigarettes," he said.

It said there should be a better interpretation of the law which is closer to imposing taxes. The Court of Appeals had upheld Fortune Tobacco's claims for P600 million and P700 million in tax refunds for the overpayment in tax amounts for the 17-99 excise tax.

The appellate court had ruled that the Court of Appeals' interpretation of the law was incorrect. It said the 17-99 excise tax was not a luxury tax, but a tax on cigarettes.

Justice Regalado 17-99 excise tax was not a luxury tax, but a tax on cigarettes. It said the 17-99 excise tax was not a luxury tax, but a tax on cigarettes.

into the effectivity of the Tax Code, the court said it should not be lower than the tax due from each lot in Dec. 1, 1996.

However, the high court added, such a qualification was absent with regard to the 12 percent surcharge to be applied to machines-packed cigarettes and cigarettes effective Jan. 1, 2000.

In adding the qualification, Justice Regalado 17-99 effectively imposed a higher tax—a situation not supported by the plain meaning of the Tax Code, it said.

It also pointed out that the new excise tax was not a luxury tax, but a tax on cigarettes. It said the 17-99 excise tax was not a luxury tax, but a tax on cigarettes.

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Jets to fly out of Naia 3 for 1st time

By Tere Quiroz

ATTO BEING IN MANILA, the 10th Philippine International Airport Terminal 3 will begin partial operations today with eight scheduled short-haul domestic flights.

A Cebu Pacific Air (CPR) flight to Cebu will be the first of the five flights per week from Manila to Cebu.

CRJ agreed to partner domestic operations at the airport terminal, which is currently under construction. The airport terminal is currently under construction.

Philippine Airlines is also expected to begin operations of its long-haul flight to Taipei from Manila 3 within the month.

Both carriers will begin flights that do not require taking of aircraft, instead using their own aircraft for handling or dispatching. In a day, the new terminal, one of Naia 3's new buildings, will be completed as it was being tested on

an Airbus A380.

For the small aircraft of domestic airlines, the CRJ will be used. The CRJ will be used for domestic flights.

As for the Cebu Pacific flight, the CRJ will be used for domestic flights.

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"This is a celebration of years of hard work," said the director.

The terminal was completed in 2002 after the Philippine Airlines and the Cebu Pacific Airlines agreed to build the terminal.

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LIES AND TRUTHS ABOUT THE NEW CTPL SYSTEM

LIE: The GSIS CTPL system is a monopoly.

TRUTH: THE NEW SYSTEM IS NOT A MONOPOLY. LEGITIMATE INSURANCE COMPANIES, ACTING AS RE-INSURERS, WILL BE MAJOR PARTNERS IN THE NEW SYSTEM

The new system will rationalize the CTPL program by legally involving legitimate insurers and account for 100% of the business to insure that the interest of the insuring public, the vehicular accident victims, the other CTPL insurance players and the government as a whole, are protected.

Already 60 out of the 83 accredited insurance companies have signified they're support and participation in the new CTPL system as reinsurers of GSIS. Several active members of PIRA have already joined in supporting actively the new system.

According to the Department of Justice, the GSIS has the mandate to provide insurance even for private vehicles. Moreover, the GSIS has managed the CTPL insurance of government vehicles very efficiently and accurately for the past decades.

LIE: 60,000 "jobs will be lost."

TRUTH: ONLY THE RACKET OF THE UNSCRUPULOUS AND ILLEGAL "AGENTS" WHO FOOL THE PUBLIC WILL BE LOST.

Based on Insurance Commission records there are only 11,000 agents and registered intermediaries. For legitimate agents, servicing CTPL insurance is more of an obligation than a source of income because they can only legitimately earn around Php 1,200/month, which is barely enough to pay for transportation expenses. That is the reason why a lot of unscrupulous people acting as insurance "agents" doing their business within the vicinity of LTO offices charge extravagant service fees ranging from Php 300 to Php 400 per Certificate of Cover (COC) on top of the premiums and taxes collected.

LIE: Motorists cannot complain to the Insurance Commission because it has no jurisdiction over the GSIS.

TRUTH: THE PUBLIC CAN GO TO THE INSURANCE COMMISSION BECAUSE THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY DOTC-GSIS-IC-STRADCOM-LTO STATES THAT, "THE INTEGRATED CTPL INSURANCE PROGRAM SHALL BE DULY COORDINATED WITH THE INSURANCE COMMISSION AND THE FUND SHALL BE ADMINISTERED UNDER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPROVED BY THE IC."

LIE: The GSIS cannot possibly service the 5.5 million CTPL holders.

TRUTH: THE GSIS CAN SERVICE 5.5 MILLION CTPL HOLDERS BECAUSE OF ITS VAST NETWORK OF 48 BRANCHES AND 78 SATELLITE OFFICES NATIONWIDE. IT HAS A 24/7 CALL CENTER AS WELL AS A SMS FACILITY TO HANDLE INQUIRIES AND CLAIMS AND HAS A NETWORK OF ACCREDITED ADJUSTERS, HOSPITALS AND CLINICS TO ATTEND TO THE CLAIMANTS/VICTIMS OF VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS. POLICY HOLDERS CAN ALSO TRANSACT ON THEIR CLAIMS AND SETTLEMENTS IN ALL GSIS OFFICES OR THROUGH ADJUSTERS AND GSIS ACCREDITED SETTLING AGENTS NATIONWIDE.

THE NEW SYSTEM IS CHEAPER, EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE. NO FAKE CTPL! NO COC SWITCHING! IT PLUGS TAX LOOPHOLES TO ENSURE CORRECT REVENUES GO TO THE GOVERNMENT!

**PROTECT THE PUBLIC!
OVERHAUL THE CTPL SYSTEM!
SUPPORT THE NEW CTPL SYSTEM NOW!**

Jobs

ing last month's hearing, underwriters in courtrooms in a phone conference, going by subject's post last night. Del. Blumenthal was charged with overseeing the hearing, but he was not present. He said he would have been roughly but he was not there.

the loading and handling of the cargo, including the porters.

toxic cargo

"First," two-row multi-leveling Capitan Gato 124, while two others remained on the ground. The two-row multi-leveling Capitan Gato 124, while two others remained on the ground. The two-row multi-leveling Capitan Gato 124, while two others remained on the ground.

warehouse

warehouse has yet to find out the cause of the fire. The fire broke out in the warehouse, which is used to store the goods. The fire broke out in the warehouse, which is used to store the goods. The fire broke out in the warehouse, which is used to store the goods.



SWEET VOICES

Members of Queen City's Kiyomoto Boys Choir took their certificates of award when they won the gold in the pop-a-cello category at the 5th World Choir Games held in China, Beijing, on July 14-16. Another Filipino ensemble, the La Pina Boys Choir, took top honors in the children's choir category in what is considered the world's largest choral competition.

—JIMMY B. SUTHERLAND

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Printed and published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the Philippines, at its principal office, 1200 Legaspi Street, Cebu City.

Ilonggo leaders unite for Panay rehab

Datumanong:
 Unity during
 flooding good
 for Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—THE coming together of people from all walks of life to save the city's heritage from the ravages of floods was one of the good things that happened here, Deputy Speaker of House Datumanong said.

Datumanong visited the straggled portion of the Rio Grande de Mindanao here last week, as civilian volunteers, as well as those from the military, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), worked to build to reduce the area being occupied by water flows.

The water flows, which previously caused a severe flood, had effectively reversed the flow of water so the river and cleared the floods.

Call of the times

After seven days of working together using indigenous techniques and modern machinery, volunteers managed to reduce the area to about 10 hectares.

"There you see leaders from the MILF, the MNLF, as well as those from the military city residents and volunteers from (southern) Sabah Resident Group in (Mindanao) and other areas," Datumanong said as he surveyed the area.



Over 10,000M affected by the major flood in Cotabato City line up on Saturday to receive food during a supplemental feeding at the Nueva Santa Village Elementary School. The feeding was sponsored by local officials and the local non-governmental organizations.

Ed Fabula, MILF chief military affairs chief, described the unified efforts "the call of times."

Col. Julio Acda, spokesman of the 6th Army Infantry Division, said volunteers from the military have been working daily since the typhoon (superstorm) started.

Major Winston Soria and MILF men who came to help with the flood relief of Mindanao.

He said their coming was a testimony to man's will against nature's wrath.

The floods have killed two people and displaced at least 10,000 individuals.

While the work has yet to be done, Soria said the coordinated efforts were eventually paying off because water in many parts of the city has been receding the past few days.

Datumanong, who represents Maguindanao in Congress, said the legislators should ensure that people are in line of service.

He said the government would also do its share in providing more funds by raising the river dredging "upstream" to Davao Piling (Maguindanao) and even farther, to the Liguasan Marsh.

Raul A. Maculan, Regional Vice President

By Mendel P. Sison Jr.
 Aquino House

ILOILO CITY—CROSSING PARTY LINES, Ilonggo leaders have closed ranks to rebuild Panay Island from the damages of Typhoon "Frank" which struck on June 21.

Among the main concerns is the issue of funds for the reconstruction of damaged and the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of flood victims.

"Rehabilitation efforts should not have politics in it. That would be expensive," Senate Minority Lead Cananada, who has been designated chair of the Task Force Bangay (Bangay) said the region is a helpless territory.

Add from Cotabato and back have spending effort and Presidential Assistant for Western Visayas Raul Basilio, the task force's members include the Regional Development Council (RDC) chair, governors and city mayors in Panay among others.

Cananada, Cabinet officer for Regional Development in Western Visayas and a member of the Presidential Council on Disaster Management, said he would not work against administration action and policy.

He said the members include the Regional Development Council (RDC) chair, governors and city mayors in Panay among others.

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The group will be the 10 Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOPS) 2008.

Since 1963, the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOPS) program has recognized the exceptional talent of the nation's brightest students, exemplary leadership, civic involvement and good moral values.

From just being an awards program, the TOPS has evolved through the years as a program that has become an institution. Through its three "Learning, Leading and Serving the Life," TOPS aims to promote excellence and service to a new life through the students and leaders who come from the various regions of the Philippines.

Sponsored by RFM Office of Competition and National Book Store, in cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education, and in close partnership with PLDT, the program is open to universities and colleges. Regional selection committees are constituted in all 17 regions, and the TOPS 2008 will be held in Manila, Philippines, on July 2008.

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Cambodia, Thailand open talks on temple row

SIEMREAP, THAILAND—Senior Thai and Cambodian defense officials met on Monday to try and end a six-day military standoff near a prized temple in the border, but there was little sign of a swift resolution.

At more than 200 Thai and 1,000 Cambodian troops faced off on disputed land near the ancient Hindu temple, Cambodia's defense minister has back-and-forth talks with Thai military officials in an attempt to break the stalemate.

"We believe they will accept our reasonable offers which will ease tension along the border," Thai defense Commander Gen. Banwong Sinsamut said before going into the meeting.

He did not expect a Thai-style position, and said he expected to continue to stand clear talks continued into the afternoon in Siemreap, about 100 km south of the disputed land.

There is possibly diffuse the territorial dispute, which are ongoing badly drawn last week, and agreed to engage in meeting in Siemreap late Sunday to "seek common efforts" to reach a deal.

The three appear to be back more by diplomatic maneuvering, with talks exchanged between the country's leaders showing no change in their stance, which has been hardened by political developments in both nations.

Tensions flared last week when Thai troops tried to enter Cambodia's Preah Vihear temple, and both sides have stationed troops around a small Buddhist pagoda on a mountain slope leading to the 11th century ruins.

Inside Cambodia territory." The International Court of Justice ruled in 1962 that the Preah Vihear temple belongs in Cambodia, but a 2.5 km of land surrounding the temple remains in dispute.

Cambodia insists that Thai troops are trespassing on their territory and has sent a letter to the United Nations to try and draw attention to what it says is an illegal invasion.



CAMBODIAN paratroopers guard stand guard at the disputed Preah Vihear temple near the Thai border on July 21.



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Time	Registration	Time	Presentation
9:30 am	Welcome remarks and Awarding of Key to the City of Makati • Hon. Jejomar C. Binay, Mayor of Makati, with Hon. Rudy Giuliani	1:42-4:04 pm	Presentation • Philippine Star
10:00 am	TALK • Mr. Oscar W. Lopez, Chairman & CEO, First Philippine Holdings Inc. & Benguet Holdings Inc.	4:00 pm	"The Principle of the Higher Purpose" • Ruth Jansen, SYT, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.
10:30 am	"Leadership in Times of Crisis" • Hon. Rudy Giuliani, former Mayor of New York City	4:30 pm	"Learning out of a Crisis, Stronger and Wiser" • Mr. Cor DeLeon, ABS-CBN & ANC
11:00 am	Q & A WITH Mr. Giuliani	4:45-5:15 pm	Coffee Break
11:30 am	Media Conference • Mr. Giuliani with select members of the media (by invitation only)		Roundtable Discussion with Mr. Giuliani • Includes: H.E. Peter Berkingham (British Embassy), Hon. Jejomar C. Binay (Mayor of Makati), Mr. James Lafferty (Procter and Gamble, Phils.), Ms. Loida Nolasco-Lewis (Business Leader), Hon. Arnold Imitola (DILG), and Ms. Ana Marie Pimenton (Phil. Star).
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	LUNCH BREAK		Madrasan: Ms. Cherie Lazara
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Book signing		Group of Talks • Ms. Cherie Lazara
1:30 pm - 1:45 pm	Presentation • De La Salle University		

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Vhong still mum about his romance with Desiree

RAGING STORMS, RISING TIDES, THEY'RE COMING STRAIGHT FOR US.



THONG MARRIED TO NOW A "FREE MAN." His marriage to former actress Brianne Lapun has been annulled. For the longest time, Thong has been quite open about his romance with Desirée del Salto, but he'd reportedly filed the annulment proceedings.

Can he even be more open about his plans with Clinton? "Nary will ever talk," says Young. "I'm no longer his pawn, my man, and my decision is _____."

DOLLY WOOD

I don't protest in knee-slaps, leg-slaps, but having gone through an abdominal liposuction, I know that it's sore when it's sore. Could there be another reason why Young refuses to be read about breasts? Is he making up reasons or is he still making up his mind?

Danny Jarama

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young women is. Many guys who frequent the same strip joints as the doc claim that she has a weird habit of insulting their women when she gets tips. They don't know if she does it intentionally or unintentionally. Whether it's true or not, it's not one of the doc's best qualities.

- In the same piece, a TV host was spotted with the model ex-GF on his lap while she was helping her next-door neighbor get ready for work. Was the host one of "endearing" boys or as possibly taken? Well, who knows what's in the world? Will he ever be better than?
- Guess who had other things going on? The Production Assistant (PA) of her actor ex-GF landed a gig at midweek when they finally split up. Taking time to hang with her ex-GF, a Sully ex-boy, is getting away from it all, or is it? Is she really? She's the best thing about the show.

Keywords:

"I had no average life," says Marvin Aguirre. "You believe I walked I wasn't living a normal man's existence. I was already aware to have two beautiful sons."

"My biggest dilemma when I was a teen was whether to continue regular schooling or take a home study program," says Adams. "I opted to do it, the regular way despite my frustration."

Marvin and Alice make good athletes in the young class they've been through. It all looks great on paper, they will never compare their medals with each other as friends.

Best cosmetic: "New question please," Gloria likes say laughing, when I asked her about the toughest part about being born beautiful. The funny Mrs. Uemura and her equally gorgeous daughter twinkle with their all the care conference of Beverly Hills (775) Multi-Specialty Aesthetics.

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